

Longacre's Ledger

The Journal of the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collector's Society

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\$172,500

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The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors Society

Our mission is to gather and disseminate information related to James B. Longacre (1794-1869), with emphasis on his work as Chief Engraver of the Mint (1844 -1869) with a primary focus on his Flying Eagle and Indian Cent coinage.

Founded 1991

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please forward your E-Mail address to The Editor immediately.**

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Please help the editor in updating any errors or changes. If you would like to become a state representative (there can be more than one per state) please contact the editor.

On the cover...

A new record for a Flying Eagle Cent was set on January 8th, 2003 when the "Gorrell" 1856 MS-66 PCGS sold for \$172,500 at Heritage's "Platinum Night" section of their FUN show "Signature" Auction. The coin is a Snow-3 die pair and was sold as part of the Gorrell Sale in last year's FUN show sale, also by Heritage. In that sale it sold for \$103, 500.

Image by Heritage Galleries.

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Submission guidelines

If you have a substantive article you would like to contribute, please follow these guidelines:

- ✓ If you have internet access, you can send text to the editor's E-mail address below. Unformatted text or MS word preferred. Please save images as separate files (JPG or TIF preferred)
- ✓ You may also send files and images on a 3.5" PC-formatted disk or CD-W disk to the Editors address below.
- ✓ Hard copies of the article and pictures may also be included.
- ✓ Images of materials can be made by the editor for use in the Journal. Please include the necessary return postage with the submission.
- ✓ Please feel free to contact the editor if you have any questions.

Submission deadlines

Please submit all articles, letters, columns, press releases, advertisements no later than the following dates to assure inclusion.

Issue	Deadline	Issue date
#59 2004 Vol. 14.1	... February 15, 2004	March 2004
#60 2004 Vol. 14.2	... May 15, 2004	June 2004
#61 2004 Vol. 14.3	... August 15, 2004	September 2004
#62 2003 Vol. 14.4	... November 15, 2004	December 2004

*Please forward all articles immediately!
The Feb. 15th. deadline has been
temporarily extended!*

Editor

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Presidents Letter

Chris Pilliod



This is my 16th letter as president. Man, the market seems to be hopping right now. I see a lot more collectors (including myself) hobbling along the bourse floors these days. As well as on eBay. Hottest on the list seem to be Civil War Tokens, nice choice brown XF to MS Indian cents, Buffalo nickels, San Francisco and Carson City Seated dimes and anything unique and unusual, including errors.

I did something interesting on eBay recently. I researched completed items for 1877 AG Indian cents (full dates but partial rims) and reviewed hammer prices for these. I found six pieces that sold—although about half were listed as Good-4's that were truly AG03's. Regardless the average hammer prices of this search was \$305 per piece. Now I can recall in the late 1980's and early 1990's being able to buy all the AG 1877's I wanted for between \$50 and \$100.

Strong buy bids coupled with a surplus of auction houses eager to give appealing commissions combine to entice many long-time collectors. I have spoken to a few of our older members who are either contemplating selling their collections or already have embarked on this road with great success.

I have also whiled away a few visits with an old friend who is a charter member of the club, George Petersen Jr of Philadelphia. George also goes by Dave—one of those guys with two first names. George is one of the few people I know that has lived in the same house for 50 years, so it was interesting listening to his reminiscing about the neighborhood he grew up in. George is one of the nicest guys you'll meet who loves Indian cents. If you ever get to Philly I'm sure he'd welcome you. If you need directions just look for the smoke rising behind his house. George has a penchant for burning fires in his backyard in the cold months. He started collecting in 1962 when a boyhood friend introduced him to the hobby. They'd salt through old coins his buddy's father would bring home and pull out the goodies. Later in life his focus narrowed to Indian cent varieties and errors as well as Bust Halves. His favorite pieces in his collection are a double-struck 1893 Indian cent with the second strike 50% off-center, and a 1885

Announcements

1909-S donated

Special thanks to Dale Chaney for his generous contribution of his counterfeit 1909-S Indian Cent to the Fly-In Club counterfeit Library. Dale's coin was feature in the June 2003 issue of Longacre's Ledger, page 17.

Please renew your membership

Please accept the appologies from the Editor, Rick Snow for the very late arrival of this issue of the Longacre's Ledger. With increased coin market activity and two book projects stealing much of my time, I could not afford to act in a timely manner to get it out as scheduled.

I have been getting good articles, but need more assistance to keep the Ledger being issued on time in the future. Please let me know if you can help.

Flying Eagle and Indian Cent class scheduled for ANA seminar

Richard Snow will be teaching a course on Flying Eagle and Indian Cents at the ANA Summer Seminar, second session, from July 3 to July 9. The course will include all aspects of collecting Flying Eagle and Indian Cents including regular issues, Proofs, Patterns and varieties. Counterfeits will be discussed, as will grading and other collector topics.

Contact the ANA at 1-800-367-9723, Education department, extension 126 or 153 for information.

Whitman to publish "The Official Red Book of Flying Eagle and Indian Cents"

Rick Snow has been chosen to author the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent volume of Whitman's series of America's most popular classic coins. It is expected to be released this summer.

Market Action
By Dr. Tim Larson

The 2004 FUN auctions highlighted 3 major collections of Flying eagle and Indian Cents. It was great to see so many nice coins in one week. In very general terms, prices realized reflected the quality of the coins, nice coins doing quite well. It was hard to tell if the “Registry Effect” was important or not, with the exception of the 1856 S3 MS66 that sold for a strong \$172,500!

The William Walser Collection

On 1-6-04 the Walser Collection of Proof Indian Head Cents was auctioned by American Numismatic Rarities. This collection is #2 All Time in the PCGS Registry for IHC proofs, basic set, without varieties. A complete listing of the collection and grades is available at PCGS.com. Quite a number of coins didn't sell because they didn't meet reserve. A listing of what did sell follows.

1862 PCGS PR66 Cam	\$3,220
1863 PCGS PR65 Cam	\$3,220
1866 PCGS PR64RD	\$2,185
1871 PCGS PR65RD	\$1,898
1878 PCGS PR65RD	\$1,265
1879 PCGS PR67RD	\$3,910
1880 PCGS PR67RD	\$3,680
1881 PCGS PR66RD	\$1,495
1882 PCGS PR64RD	\$408
1883 PCGS PR66RB	\$920
1884 PCGS PR67RD	\$4,600
1885 PCGS PR66RD	\$3,220
1887 PCGS PR65RB	\$368
1888 PCGS PR65RB	\$414
1889 PCGS PR65RB	\$472
1891 PCGS PR64RD	\$369
1893 PCGS PR65RD	\$1,265
1898 PCGS PR66RD	\$1,495
1900 PCGS PR65RD	\$1,380
1901 PCGS PR66RD	\$1,495
1902 PCGS PR66RD	\$1,438
1903 PCGS PR65RD	\$926
1904 PCGS PR65RD	\$920
1905 PCGS PR65RD	\$978
1906 PCGS PR66RD	\$1,438
1907 PCGS PR66RD	\$3,450
1909 PCGS PR66RD	\$1,438

“Platinum Night”

The first night of the Heritage auction 1-7-04 was titled Platinum Night. As Heritage proclaimed, it featured the “rarest of the rare”. It was anchored by two gold-coin collections and quite a number of premium pattern, silver, commemorative and copper coinage. Among the later were 7 Flying Eagle Cents and a single IHC. The highlight for FE fans was the finest known 1856 S3, PCGS MS66. This coin sold at last years FUN show for \$103,500 and brought an astounding \$172,500 this year.

1856 PCGS MS62 S3 \$13,800
This coin was actually a S9, a Proof in a MS holder missattributed by the cataloger.

1856 PCGS MS63 S3 \$14,950
This is correctly attributed by PCGS.
1856 PCGS MS65 S9 \$48,875
This is a Proof in a MS holder.

1856 PCGS MS66 S3 \$172,500
This is correctly attributed by PCGS. This coin sold last year for \$103,500 at the FUN show. It set a new record for a small cent.
1856 PCGS PR64 S9 \$16,100
This is correctly attributed by PCGS.
1856 PCGS PR64 S9 \$13,800
Another correctly attributed coin.
1858/7 NGC MS64 S1 \$9,775
1877 PCGS PR66RD \$16,100

On Thursday 1-8-04, two major collections were auctioned by Heritage (West Palm Beach and Richard Collections). The West Palm Beach Collection consisted of very high grade Proofs. It include the only 1864 With L, PR3 in PR64RD. This outstanding collection holds the #1 PCGS Registry position (All Time) for Proof Flying Eagle and Indian Head Cents (the later for both the basic and variety sets).

West Palm Beach Collection

1856 PCGS PR66 S3 \$47,150

This is correctly attributed - the only S3 determined to be a proof. This is obviously a special striking. It's dark brown in color, it may have been bronzed at the Mint. This coin was discussed in Longacre's Ledger 11.3, September 2001 pg. 24 "The saga of a 1856 Flying Eagle Cent".

1857 PCGS PR65 \$18,975

Tied for finest known.

1858 PCGS LL PR65 Cam \$20,700

Tied for finest known.

1858 PCGS SL PR65 Cam \$24,150

1859 PCGS PR66 Cam \$17,825

1860 PCGS PR66 \$7,475

Tied for finest known.

1861 PCGS PR66 \$16,100

Tied for finest known.

1862 PCGS PR67 Cam \$10,350

1863 PCGS PR66 \$4,715

1864 PCGS PR66 Cam \$6,612

1864 PCGS PR66 Cam No L \$28,750

Finest Known

1864 PCGS PR64RD With L \$118,450

This coin was featured on the cover of Longacre's Ledger 12.2, June 2002. It had set the previous record price for a small cent when it sold for \$138,000 at the "Long Beach" sale by Heritage in June 2002. It is the unique PR3 die pair.

1865 PCGS PR66RD \$11,500

Tied for finest known.

1866 PCGS PR66 Cam \$8,050

Tied for finest known.

1867 PCGS PR66 Cam \$17,825

Finest Known

1868 PCGS PR65 Cam \$5,750

1869 PCGS PR66 Cam \$7,475

Tied for finest known.

1870 PCGS PR66RD \$5,290

Tied for finest known.

1871 PCGS PR65RD \$1,898

1872 PCGS PR66RD \$6,038

Tied for finest known.

1873 PCGS PR66 Cam \$10,063

Tied for finest known.

1874 PCGS PR66 Cam \$10,350

1875 PCGS PR66 RD \$11,500

Tied for finest known.

1876 PCGS PR65RD \$1,610

1877 PCGS PR67RD \$47,150

Tied for finest known.

1878 PCGS PR66RD	\$2,300
1879 PCGS PR67 Cam	\$9,488
<i>Tied for finest known.</i>	
1880 PCGS PR67RD	\$4,025
<i>Tied for finest known.</i>	
1881 PCGS PR67RD	\$5,175
<i>Tied for finest known.</i>	
1882 PCGS PR67RD	\$6,555
<i>Tied for finest known.</i>	
1883 PCGS PR67RD	\$7,763
<i>Tied for finest known.</i>	
1884 PCGS PR66RD	\$2,415
1885 PCGS PR66RD	\$2,990
1886 PCGS PR66RD Ty 1	\$3,565
<i>Tied for finest known.</i>	
1886 PCGS PR65 Cam Ty 2	\$12,650
1887 PCGS PR66RD	\$7,188
<i>Tied for finest known.</i>	
1888 PCGS PR66 Cam	\$17,250
<i>Tied for finest known.</i>	
1889 PCGS PR66RD	\$4,485
<i>Tied for finest known.</i>	
1890 PCGS PR65RD	\$2,300
1891 PCGS PR65 Cam	\$2,760
1892 PCGS PR65RD	\$2,185
1893 PCGS PR67RD	\$8,625
<i>Tied for finest known.</i>	
1894 PCGS PR66 Cam	\$3,450
<i>Finest Cameo</i>	
1895 PCGS PR66 Cam	\$4,140
<i>Finest Cameo</i>	
1896 PCGS PR65 Cam	\$5,290
<i>Finest Cameo</i>	
1897 PCGS PR67 Cam	\$10,350
1898 PCGS PR67 Cam	\$13,800
<i>Tied for finest known.</i>	
1899 PCGS PR66RD	\$1,610
1900 PCGS PR66RD	\$2,703
1901 PCGS PR65RD	\$863
1902 PCGS PR67RD	\$5,463
1903 PCGS PR66RD	\$1,581
1904 PCGS PR65RD	\$920
1905 PCGS PR67RD	\$9,200
<i>Tied for finest known.</i>	
1906 PCGS PR67RD	\$9,775
<i>Tied for finest known.</i>	
1907 PCGS PR66RD	\$2,530
1908 PCGS PR65RD	\$863
1909 PCGS PR66RD	\$1,725

The "Richard" Collection

The Richard collection consisted of Mint State and Proof Indian Head Cents in gem full red. This collection was the #3 active PCGS Registry set at the time, currently #4 in the "All Time Finest" listing. Highlights included the tough to find 65RD dates 1877 and 1872 along with a 1909-S in MS66RD.

"Richard" Collection Mint State

1859 PCGS MS65	\$2,185
1860 PCGS MS66	\$2,185
1861 PCGS MS66	\$1,955
1862 PCGS MS66	\$2,760
1863 PCGS MS65	\$748
1864 PCGS MS65	\$1,380
1864 PCGS MS66RD No L	\$2,933
1864 PCGS MS65RD With L	\$3,105
1865 PCGS MS65RD Fancy 5	\$2,760
1866 PCGS MS65RD	\$5,980
1867 PCGS MS65RD	\$8,050
1868 PCGS MS65RD	\$3,105
1869 PCGS MS65RD	\$3,565
1870 PCGS MS65RD	\$4,255
1871 PCGS MS64RD	\$2,760
1872 PCGS MS65RD	\$17,250
1873 PCGS MS65RD Open 3	\$6,900
1874 PCGS MS65RD	\$2,473
1875 PCGS MS65RD	\$3,220
1876 PCGS MS65RD	\$3,450
1877 PCGS MS65RD	\$17,250
1878 PCGS MS65RD	\$1,553
1879 PCGS MS65RD	\$776
1880 PCGS MS65RD	\$891
1881 PCGS MS66RD	\$1,783
1882 PCGS MS66RD	\$2,530
1883 PCGS MS66RD	\$3,795
1884 PCGS MS66RD	\$4,888
1885 PCGS MS65RD	\$1,236
1886 PCGS MS65RD Ty 1	\$3,680
1887 PCGS MS65RD	\$748
1888 PCGS MS65RD	\$2,875
1889 PCGS MS65RD	\$2,760
1890 PCGS MS65RD	\$1,035
1891 PCGS MS66RD	\$9,200
1892 PCGS MS65RD	\$1,265
1893 PCGS MS65RD	\$780
1894 PCGS MS66RD	\$3,910
1895 PCGS MS65RD	\$575
1896 PCGS MS66RD	\$5,750
1897 PCGS MS65RD	\$805
1898 PCGS MS66RD	\$1,840
1899 PCGS MS65RD	\$403
1900 PCGS MS65RD	\$552
1901 PCGS MS66RD	\$920
1902 PCGS MS65RD	\$460
1903 PCGS MS66RD	\$1,200
1904 PCGS MS65RD	\$489
1905 PCGS MS65RD	\$431
1906 PCGS MS65RD	\$431
1907 PCGS MS65RD	\$420
1908 PCGS MS65RD	\$449
1908-S PCGS MS65RD	\$1,265
1909 PCGS MS66RD	\$1,012
1909-S PCGS MS66RD	\$13,800

"Richard" Collection Proofs

1859 PCGS PR65	\$4,140
1860 PCGS PR65	\$4,426
1861 PCGS PR64	\$2,415
1862 PCGS PR66 Cam	\$3,151
1863 PCGS PR66 Cam	\$5,880
1864 PCGS PR66 Deep Cam	\$8,625
1864 PCGS PR65RD No L	\$5,175
1865 PCGS PR65RD	\$4,887
1866 PCGS PR65RD Cam	\$4,140
1867 PCGS PR65RD Cam	\$4,370
1868 PCGS PR65RD	\$4,715
1869 PCGS PR64RD	\$1,063
1870 PCGS PR65RD	\$1,840
1871 PCGS PR65RD	\$1,725
1872 PCGS PR65RD	\$1,725
1873 PCGS PR65RD	\$2,070
1874 PCGS PR65RD	\$1,841
1875 PCGS PR65RD	\$1,725
1876 PCGS PR65RD	\$1,840
1877 PCGS PR65RD	\$8,625
1878 PCGS PR65RD Cam	\$1,035
1879 PCGS PR67RD	\$3,680
1880 PCGS PR66RD	\$1,610
1881 PCGS PR65RD	\$851
1882 PCGS PR66RD	\$3,162
1883 PCGS PR65RD Cam	\$2,530
1884 PCGS PR67RD	\$4,600
1885 PCGS PR66RD	\$2,875
1886 PCGS PR65RD Ty 1	\$2,070
1887 PCGS PR65RD	\$4,255
1888 PCGS PR65RD	\$3,450
1889 PCGS PR65RD	\$1,150
1890 PCGS PR65RD	\$1,265
1891 PCGS PR65RD Cam	\$2,530
1892 PCGS PR66RD Cam	\$5,290
1893 PCGS PR66RD Cam	\$3,680
1894 PCGS PR66RD	\$1,725
1895 PCGS PR65RD	\$920
1896 PCGS PR65RD	\$1,495
1897 PCGS PR65RD Cam	\$2,415
1898 PCGS PR65RD	\$862
1899 PCGS PR65RD	\$1,150
1900 PCGS PR67RD Cam	\$8,625
1901 PCGS PR65RD	\$862
1902 PCGS PR65RD	\$920
1903 PCGS PR65RD	\$1,035
1904 PCGS PR65RD	\$1,840
1905 PCGS PR65RD	\$862
1906 PCGS PR65RD	\$1,035
1907 PCGS PR66RD	\$2,530
1908 PCGS PR65RD	\$806
1909 PCGS PR66RD	\$3,220

I "DIG" Indian Cents.
By Dennis Bjorklund



Here's a quick scan of 3 1869 Indians I've dug. A fourth was too dark to scan, but it has a strong liberty. It's also chipping around the edges which is typical for dug-up Indians in this area, Indian Head, MD. So far I've dug 126 Indians and 4 Flying Eagles. The only dates I haven't found are 1856, 1860 T1, 1861, 1864 CN, 1871, 1872, 1876, 1877, 1885, 1886, 1889, 1892, 1908-S, 1909-S.

I find Indians very regularly. Sometimes I find one on every trip. If the Indians are there, that may mean Miss Seated Liberty might be in your goodie bag next. Some other coins I've found include:

2 Seated Half Dimes	3 Shield Nickels
8 Seated Dimes	2 Liberty Cap Large Cents
1 Seated Quarter	7 Draped Bust Large Cents
1828 Bust Quarter	35 Later date Large Cents
1829 Bust Dime	1892-O Silver Dollar
5 Two-Cent pieces	1914-D Lincoln Cent.
2 Three-Cent Silvers	

All these coins were surrounded by Indian Cents. I've also found some neat colonial coins also. King George's, Irish Halfpennies, Connecticut Coppers, Vermont coppers, and Spanish Silver. I even found a hammered coin from the 1600's.

Most of this stuff was found on heavily detected sites. Virgin sites are tough to find. At one site near my house, I had the privilege to be the first one there with a detector. I found 41 coins (mostly Indians) dated 1798- 1882 along with some silver spoons, Civil War buttons and a U.S. cartridge box plate. There were five fire pit rings next to a spring in the middle of nowhere, untouched, waiting for me to unlock their secrets. Unfortunately, now a house sits on this site. Gone forever.

Some of my friends have made spectacular finds as well. My friend, Andy in Lancaster, PA has two 1877 Indians he's dug. Another buddy, Rich in central PA was researching an old boy

scout camp from the 1920's. He found a 1793 chain cent. On a return trip he found 1912 and 1914-D Quarter Eagles in the same hole!!! Almost a year later at a different site he was blessed with his second 1793 chain cent!!!!!! A special hunt with 200 people detecting was held at a union camp site in Fredericksburg, VA. I heard someone found a Rare Confederate Virginia Button. When I found the guy, he was digging a hut hole. There was 20 people watching him when he found a beautiful Eagle beltplate. Then the lucky guy found a 1853 Ten Dollar gold coin, with 20 witnesses!! And as you may have guessed - many Indians turned up that weekend. A guy I met in Ohio cashed in over 800 Indian heads he's found over the years. Imagine the other coins he's found with them!



Collecting Reborn
By Michael Ellis
Oklahoma State Representative

A guy walks into a hotel bar late on Monday afternoon just before it closes, and orders a cup of coffee. He drinks that coffee quickly, says “thanks,” and leaves the bar. Late the next day, the same guy comes into the bar again and orders another cup of coffee, drinks it quickly, and leaves. Again, late on Wednesday, he comes in, orders and drinks a cup of coffee, goes in the bathroom, whips out a shotgun, and shoots the toilet to pieces. The fourth day the guy returns to the bar and orders coffee, but the bartender tells the guy that he can’t serve him and that he would have to leave, based on his behavior of the previous day. The guy tells the bartender that he was just following his training guidelines. The bartender, puzzled, asks him, “What do you mean?” The guy replies, “I’m in training for a Government job. I come in late, drink coffee, shoot the crap, and leave early.”

The only relationship this article has with the above paragraph is that I work for the Federal Government. While the benefits are good, the pay is not. Unfortunately for me from a financial standpoint, I’ve developed an affinity for high quality Flying Eagle and Indian Cents. It’s very difficult for one to assemble a high quality collection on a limited budget. It’s difficult, but not impossible. I believe it can be done with patience and self-education. While I realize that nearly all of the readers of this article will have many more years of serious collecting experience than me, I would like to share a little of my history and collecting experience with fellow club members:

I started collecting at about the age of ten in the 1950’s with a group of three or four grade school age friends. Since we rarely had the spending money to purchase coins from dealers, we looked through all the coins we could in circulation. We would periodically go to the bank and buy a couple of rolls of cents or nickels, and we always checked our change and our parents’ change, seeking one of the well-known elusive rare coins such as a ’09-S VDB or 14-D. I don’t recall anyone finding one of the really rare pieces, but I do recall one of my friends finding a ’31-S Lincoln Cent in a bank roll in about AU condition. How thrilled we all were.

As I entered my junior high school years, I would periodically stay with my maternal Grandmother who operated a coffee shop in downtown Seattle. I would wait tables, wash dishes, and she would pay me and teach me about the business. But, best of all, I was able to check out all the change. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Mercury Dimes, Buffalo Nickels, and Walking Liberty Half dollars were common in change. Occasionally, I would find a Standing

Liberty Quarter, or a Barber Half, Quarter or Dime. Even more rarely, but upon occasion, I would discover a well-worn Indian Cent. How these coins of yesteryear fascinated me and how thrilled I was to hold one of these coins in my hand.

I stayed away from coins for the next 20 plus years for the most part, although I did collect a few lower graded coins in the 1980s. I suppose I still had a certain fascination with coins during this time, but did not pursue the hobby actively until nearly four years ago.

In early 2000, I retired from the Army. A friend of mine, who had retired several years prior, “drug” me to a small, local coin show. I had never attended a coin show. I bought a 1908-S VF Indian Cent, for about \$70.00. Up until that time, it was, by far, the most money I had ever spent on a coin. From that point on, I was hooked. I started going to all the local and regional shows I could attend, intent on collecting circulated, but nice, Buffalo Nickels, Mercury Dimes, and Indian Cents. In the fall of 2000 I bought my first “nice” uncirculated coin, a nearly red MS-64 1895 Indian. I continued to attempt to collect all three series for the next year and a half, but something had happened to me by purchasing that uncirculated ’95 Indian: I developed an affinity for mint state coins. However, I soon realized that I couldn’t afford to collect all three series in uncirculated grades. I just didn’t have the financial resources. Besides, I wanted to attempt to make substantial progress assembling at least one particular series. Having to decide which series was of most interest to me, as well as the most attainable from a financial standpoint in uncirculated grades, I sold the Buffalo Nickels. I continued to acquire mint state Indians and Mercs, but simultaneously trying to acquire both series again became, over time, too much of a financial strain. I couldn’t afford to collect both series in the grades I preferred. I had to choose. The final decision was easy for me. I sold the Mercury Dimes and chose the Indians.

Exactly why I chose the Indians is a little difficult for me to explain. First, the aesthetic design of the Flying Eagle-Indian Cent series appeals to me in a way that other denominations/series do not. Second, the nearly sixty years during which the series was issued was a time of great change, socio-economic development and exploration. It is extremely fascinating for me to hold a nice Indian Cent or Flying Eagle and wonder where the coin has been for the last 100-150 years.

Along the way, I’ve made several aggravating mistakes. I purchased a ’16-D Mercury in a green PCI holder that turned out to have an added “D.” I was able to return the coin but that deal cost me \$500.00. I bought a ’58 SL Flying Eagle graded by PCGS as MS62 that I was positive would upgrade. I cracked it out of the

holder, submitted the coin back to PCGS, and it came back AU58. Due to my overconfidence of the coin grading MS63, I didn't photograph the coin or even keep the label prior to resubmitting it. That cost me some more money. I also recently examined a 1942/41-D Mercury Dime, graded EF40 by PCGS. PCGS holder or not, I initially thought the coin was overgraded, and was probably VF-30 at best. But, after some deliberation, I purchased the coin anyway. Talk about buying the holder and not the coin! I had buyer's remorse before I even arrived back home. Later, I tried to sell the coin as graded and three different dealers thought as I initially did, that the coin was overgraded.

I consider the above "mistakes" as part of paying my collector dues. Generally speaking, however, I feel I've made mostly sound decisions and chosen good quality coins for the grade. The three major keys, for me, to acquiring a quality set of coins are self-education, patience, and finding ethical, knowledgeable dealers who will assist a collector in assembling a quality set. I can't stress enough the importance of patience. My natural lack of patience has and continues to be my nemesis. It doesn't do one any good to learn how to grade if one is too impatient when making purchases. Just because I'm looking for a certain date in a certain grade doesn't mean that a particular coin is the "right" coin to add to my set. When I started collecting certified pieces, I pretty much thought that if a coin was, for example, graded a certain grade/color by a reputable grading service it was automatically graded properly. I now know that is certainly not the case. And, with my limited budget, it's important for me to purchase a coin with which I'm satisfied, is graded accurately and has good eye-appeal. I need to limit my financial exposure to the downside.

Regarding education, I've studied the ANA guides and videos, Grading Coins Today and Grading Mint State Coins. Dave Bowers' book, The Buyer's and Enthusiast's Guide to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents has been invaluable, as have Rick Snow's comprehensive guides. Of course, the articles contained in Longacre's Ledger are also a consistent source of important information. I've learned a considerable amount regarding grading, rarity, color, luster and strike from the above references. Attending shows and discussing coins in general with dealers is also very important. Also, one needs to view as many coins as possible in order to compare and differentiate between average and outstanding coins within a grading range. As we all know, all MS64 RB's are not equal. This is where patience becomes important. Finding the "right" coin in a particular grade is often a difficult task. There are many more mediocre or average coins than outstanding coins. Just because a coin is graded MS63, MS64, or MS65, even by the major grading services (let alone the lower tier services), doesn't mean that it's a nice coin. I often examine several coins of a particular year before I make a decision to purchase one that is satisfactory to me. Strike, luster and color are my criteria in order of importance. That may not work for everyone, but it's the most comfortable way for me to make an informed decision.

Due to my limited ability to attend major shows because of my location, it's been important for me to develop relationships with ethical, knowledgeable dealers. By trial and error as well as reputation, I primarily purchase coins from three well-known national dealers. At this point, all three send me coins on approval with return privileges. As I've become more educated and particular, this is imperative. I live in a fairly small town and we have no dealers who consistently carry quality coins in their inventory.

So far, I have assembled what I feel to be a decent collection considering my limited financial resources. Since I consider myself to still be in the "learning" phase (and may always be), I purchase only certified coins graded by the reputable grading services (that may never change). The highlights of my set include an 1881 MS66RB (NGC), a 1908-S MS64RD (PCGS), a 1909-S MS64RB (PCGS), and an 1895 MS64RD (PCGS) PQ++, probably under graded. I have twenty MS64RD's in the more common dates, one MS65RD, and several other semi-keys in MS-64RB ('64L, '70, etc). The average grade is 63.7, excluding color.

At what point will I consider my collection finished? I have no idea at this point. It may never happen. I do realize that the thrill and excitement is in the hunt. It's a difficult challenge to assemble a nice, relatively high-quality, problem free set with a limited budget. I am an impatient person by nature but, if nothing else, I have learned that impatience is a serious collector's greatest enemy.

You can advertise here

"Snow" variety checklist

By Rick Snow

Due to the infrequent release of "The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent attribution guide", it was thought that collectors need to have a concise listing of currently known varieties. Below is the current listing. Perhaps in the future

this listing can be converted to the web site with the cross-reference information and rarity and population information.

1856

- Snow 1 Repunched 5 / Tilted One Cent
- Snow 2 Pointed U / High Leaves
- Snow 3 Repunched 5 / High Leaves
- Snow 4 Pointed U / Low Leaves
- Snow 5 Pointed U / Center dot
- Snow 6 Repunched 1 / Center dot
- Snow 7 Heavy date / Center dot
- Snow 8 Die Line at 1 / no center dot
- Snow 9 Die Line at 1 / Center dot
- Snow 10 Repunched 5 / Low leaves

1857

- Snow 1 Obverse of 1856. 1857/1857(sw)
- Snow 2 Obverse of 1856
- Snow 3 Obverse Style of 1857
- Snow 4 Missing wing tip hub, Doubled die obverse, 2-O-I
- Snow 5 Doubled Die Obverse, 5-O-II
- Snow 6 Doubled Die Obverse, 9-O-II
- Snow 7 \$20 Clashed obverse
- Snow 8 25¢. Clashed reverse
- Snow 9 50¢. Clashed obverse
- Snow 10 57/57/57 (s) 1/1 (n). Doubled Die Obverse. 6-O-I
- Snow 11 1857/1857 (s).
- Snow 12 Triple Die Obverse. 13-O-I
- Snow 13 No Variety
- Snow 14 Doubled Die Obverse 10-O-I
- Snow 15 Doubled Die Obverse 3-O-I
- Snow 16 Multiple Digits in the Eagle
- Snow 17 Doubled Die Obverse 1-O-I
- Snow 18 Doubled Die Obverse 4-O-I
- Snow 19 Doubled Die Obverse 11-O-I

1858 Large Letters (Type of '57)

- Snow 1 8/7 (ne), MPD in field. High Leaves reverse
- Snow 2 Doubled die obverse, 2-O-V. Low leaves reverse
- Snow 3 Doubled die obverse, 2-O-IV (n), Low leaves, doubled die reverse, 1-R-IV
- Snow 4 1/1 (ne), Doubled die obverse, 5-O-I. High leaves.
- Snow 5 No Variety
- Snow 6 Doubled die obverse, 1-O-II. Low leaves reverse
- Snow 7 1/1(w), 8/7(e). Doubled die obverse. 7-O-II. High leaves reverse
- Snow 8 No Variety
- Snow 9 1858/1858(n). Low leaves reverse
- Snow 10 Low leaves, doubled die reverse, 1-R-III
- Snow 11 Doubled die obverse, 9-O-II, High leaves reverse
- Snow 12 1858/1858(s). High leaves reverse
- Snow 13 Doubled die obverse, 10-O-II & VIII, Low leaves
- Snow 14 Doubled die obverse, 12-O-II, High leaves reverse
- Snow 15 Doubled die obverse, 11-O-II, High leaves reverse

1858 Small Letters (Type of '58)

- Snow 1 1/1(n)
- Snow 2 185/185(n), Low leaves, Doubled die reverse, 2-R-III
- Snow 3 Low leaves, doubled die reverse, 1-R-III
- Snow 4 1/1(ne). Low leaves reverse
- Snow 5 Low leaves, doubled die reverse, 3-R-III
- Snow 6 Doubled S
- Snow 7 Doubled die obverse. 1-O-VI. High leaves reverse
- Snow 8 Low leaves, Doubled die reverse, 4-R-III
- Snow 9 Low leaves, Doubled die reverse, 5-R-III

1859

- Snow 1 1859/1859(sw)
- Snow 2 185/185(s)
- Snow 3 18/18(s) 59/59(n)
- Snow 4 9/9(w)
- Snow 5 9/9(s)
- Snow 6 18/18(e)

1860 Pointed Bust (Type of '59)

- Snow 1 1/1(s)

1860 Rounded Bust (Type of '60)

- Snow 1 18/18(s)
- Snow 2 0/0(s)

1861

- Snow 1 61/61(s)
- Snow 2 Repaired ES in STATES. Doubled die 1-O-III
- Snow 3 Off-center clashed reverse

1862

- Snow 1 2/2.
- Snow 2 86 in denticles
- Snow 3 Bar under 2
- Snow 4 Mutiple 1's in denticles
- Snow-5 Doubled die reverse, I-R-V & VIII

1863

- Snow 1 18/18(n)
- Snow 2 863/863(sw)
- Snow 3 3/3(n)
- Snow 4 86/86(nw)
- Snow 5 7th feather bar
- Snow 6 6/6(n)
- Snow 7 863/863(s)
- Snow 8 6 in denticles
- Snow 9 86/86(ne)
- Snow 10 Doubled die reverse 1-R-IV
- Snow 11 1863/1863(n)

1864 Copper Nickel

- Snow 1 1/1(s), 86/86(w)
- Snow 2 64/64(s)
- Snow 3 No variety
- Snow 4 4/4(w)

1864 No L, Bronze

- Snow 1 1864/1864(w)
- Snow 2 864/864(sw)
- Snow 3 864/864(w)
- Snow 4 Doubled die obverse, 1-O-V, 4/4(w)
 - Snow 5 No variety
- Snow 6 4/4(nw), 4/4(s)
- Snow 7 64/64(s), 4/4(s)
- Snow 8 6/6(n)
- Snow 9 86/86(n)
- Snow 10 Bisecting die crack
- Snow 11 Lathe lines

1864 With L

- Snow 1 1864/1864(se)
- Snow 2 1864/1864(s)
- Snow 3 1864/1864(n), 1/1(s)
- Snow 4 1864/1864(n), 18/18(s)
- Snow 5 1864/1864(n), 18/18(s)
- Snow 6 1864/1864(n)
- Snow 7 1864/1864(se)
- Snow 8 1864/1864(n)
 - Snow 9 No variety
- Snow 10 86/86(s)
- Snow 11 86/86(n)
- Snow 12 4/4(n), 4/4(n)
 - Snow 13 No variety
- Snow 14 64/64(n)
- Snow 15 864/864(sw)
- Snow 16 Vertical die crack
- Snow 17 8/8(se)
- Snow 18 1864/1864(nw)
- Snow 19 18/18(n), 64/64(s)
- Snow 20 18/18(n)

1865 Plain 5

- Snow 1 18/18(s), 65/65(n)
- Snow 2 1/1(e), 5/5(s), MPD
- Snow 3 1865/1865(s), MPD
- Snow 4 18/18(n)
- Snow 5 1/1(s)
- Snow 6 865/865(s)
- Snow 7 1/1(n)
 - Snow 8 No variety
 - Snow 9 No variety
- Snow 10 8/8(s)
- Snow 11 1/1(s)

1865 Fancy 5

- Snow 1 1/1(s), 5/4 digit punch
- Snow 2 Doubled die reverse 1-R-IV
- Snow 3 8/8(w)
- Snow 4 186/186(s)
- Snow 5 186/186(s)
- Snow 6 18/18(n), 65/65(s)
 - Snow 7 No variety
- Snow 8 65/65(s)
- Snow 9 18/18(n), 65/65(s)
 - Snow 10 No variety
- Snow 11 865/865(s), 65/65(s)
 - Snow 12 No variety
- Snow 13 18/18(n), 65/65(s)
- Snow 14 Circular die line in headdress
- Snow 15 2 digits under bust

1866

- Snow 1 Triple LIBERTY, 1-O-V, Digits in pearls & denticles
- Snow 2 18/18(s), 66/66(n)
- Snow 3 1/1(w)
- Snow 4 18/18(s), 66/66(n)
- Snow 5 18/18(s), 6/6(n)
- Snow 6 1/1(n), 6/6(s)
- Snow 7 66/66(n)
- Snow 8 66/66(s)
- Snow 9 66/66(n)
- Snow 10 18/18(nw), 6/6(sw)
 - Snow 11 No variety
- Snow 12 18/18(s)
- Snow 13 866 in denticles
- Snow 14 1/1(nw), 66/66(nw)
- Snow 15 6/6(s)
- Snow 16 Doubled die obverse, 2-O-V

1867

- Snow 1 67/67(n)
- Snow 2 18/18(s), 7/7(n)
- Snow 3 67/67(n)
- Snow 4 18/18(s)
- Snow 5 18/18(n), 18/18(s)
- Snow 6 Doubled die reverse, 1-R-II
 - Snow 7 No variety
- Snow 8 Scarface, die lines on face

1868

- Snow 1 Doubled die obverse, 1-O-V, 868/868(s)
- Snow 2 1/1(se), 68/68(ne)
- Snow 3 1/1(s)
- Snow 4 Doubled die obverse, 3-O-V, 1868, 868/868(sw)
- Snow 5 Doubled die obverse, 2-O-V, 1868, 8/8, Digit in denticles
- Snow 6 868/868(s)
 - Snow 7 No variety
- Snow 8 Mutiple MPD's
- Snow 9 68/68(s)
- Snow 10 18/18(s), String of pearls

1869

- Snow 1 18/18(nw), 6/6(s)
- Snow 2 1/1(n), 1869/1869(s), MPD
- Snow 3 69/69(n)
- Snow 4 9/9(n)
- Snow 5 1/1(s), 869/869(n), MPD
- Snow 6 869/869(n)
- Snow 7 9/9(n)
- Snow 8 Digits in denticles
- Snow 9 1869/1869(s)
- Snow 10 18/18(s)
- Snow 11 9/9(n)
- Snow 12 1 in denticles
- Snow 13 1/1(s)
- Snow 14 69/69(n)
- Snow 15 1/1(s)
- Snow 16 9/9(n)
- Snow 17 1/1 (s)

1870

- Snow 1 Tripled die obverse, 1-O-IV, 18/18(s) 0/0(n)
- Snow 2 Tripled die obverse, 1-O-IV,
Doubled die reverse, 1-R-III&V
- Snow 3 Doubled die obverse, 2-O-IV,
Doubled die reverse, 1-R-III & V
- Snow 4 1870/1870(n)
- Snow 5 0 in denticles, Doubled die obverse, 3-O-IV.
18/18(n) 0/0(e)
- Snow 6 18/18(nw), Doubled die reverse, 3-R-III
- Snow 7 Pick Axe, Doubled die obverse, 4-O-IV
- Snow 8 Many digits in denticles,
Doubled die reverse 11-R-III
- Snow 9 Doubled die obverse, 2-O-IV,
Doubled die reverse, 9-O-III
- Snow 10 Doubled die reverse, 8-R-III
- Snow 11 1/1(n), 8/8(w)
- Snow 12 187/187(n), Doubled die reverse, 12-R-III
- Snow 13 Tripled die obverse, 1-O-IV,
Doubled die reverse, 2-R-V
- Snow 14 Doubled die reverse, 21-R-III & IV
- Snow 15 Doubled die Obverse, 2-O-V
- Snow 16 18/18(nw), Doubled die reverse, 14-R-III
- Snow 17 Pick Axe, DDO 4-O-IV. Double die reverse, 7-O-III
- Snow 18 Pick Axe, DDO 4-O-IV, Doubled die reverse, 16-R-III
- Snow 19 Doubled die reverse, 4-R-III
- Snow 20 1/1(s), Doubled die reverse, 5-R-III
- Snow 21 Doubled die reverse, 6-R-III
- Snow 22 187/187(s) 0/0(s,n), Tripled die obverse, 1-O-IV,
Doubled die reverse, 13-R-III
- Snow 23 Doubled die reverse, 10-R-III
- Snow 24 Doubled die reverse, 15-R-IV
- Snow 25 Doubled die reverse, 16-R-III
- Snow 26 Doubled die reverse, 17-R-III
- Snow 27 Pick Axe, Doubled die obverse, 4-O-IV.
Doubled die reverse, 19-R-III
- Snow 28 Tripled die obverse, 1-O-IV, 18/18(s) 0/0(n),
Doubled die reverse, 18-R-V
- Snow 29 18/18(nw), Doubled die reverse, 20-R-III
- Snow 30 18/18(nw), Doubled die reverse, 22-R-III

- Snow 31 Doubled die reverse, 23-R-IV
- Snow 32 18/18(s) 0/0(n), Tripled die (1-O-V),
Doubled die reverse 24-R-III
- Snow 33 18/18(s) 0/0(n), Tripled die (1-O-V),
Doubled die reverse 11-R-III
- Snow 34 Double die reverse, 1-R-III & V
- Snow 35 187/187(n)
- Snow 36 1/1(s)
- Snow 37 Doubled die obverse 6-O-V,
Doubled die reverse 19-R-III
- Snow 38 Doubled die reverse, 20-R-III

1871

- Snow 1 1871/1871(s) on digit punch
- Snow 2 71 Touch, First 1/1(n)
- Snow 3 last1/1(sw)
- Snow 4 Shallow N reverse
- Snow 5 1 in denticles, Shallow N reverse

1872

- Snow 1 1872/1872(n)
- Snow 2 18/18(e) 2/2(e)
- Snow 3 1 in necklace
- Snow 4 872/872(w), 8 in denticles
- Snow 5 72/72(n)
- Snow 6 8/8(nw) 2/2(nw)
- Snow 7 2/2(s)
- Snow 8 1/1(s)
- Snow 9 2 in lower hair curl
- Snow 10 Shallow N reverse
- Snow 11 1 in neck, 18/18(se) 2/2(se)
- Snow 12 2/2(n)
- Snow 13 1/1(s), Shallow N reverse

1873 Closed 3

- Snow 1 Doubled LIBERTY 1-O-V
- Snow 2 Doubled die obverse 2-O-III
- Snow 3 18/18(s)

1873 Open 3

- Snow 1 1/1(n) 73/73(n) 3/3(s)
- Snow 2 Doubled die obverse, 3-O-II
- Snow 3 1/1(s) 3/3(n)
- Snow 4 18/18(s)
- Snow 5 Digit in denticles
- Snow 6 3 in pearls, 3 on neck
- Snow 7 MPD on neck

1874

- Snow 1 Doubled die obverse, 1-O-V
- Snow 2 No variety
- Snow 3 1/1(s) 74/74(n)
- Snow 4 1/1(n)

1875

- Snow 1 18/18(small/large punch)
- Snow 2 18/18(w) 5/5(w)
- Snow 3 18/18(s)
- Snow 4 5/5(n)
- Snow 5 1875/1875(s)
- Snow 6 Die lines below ear
- Snow 7 1875/1875(s)
- Snow 8 5/5(ne)
- Snow 9 1/1(s)
- Snow 10 18/18(s)
- Snow 11 1/1(s) 1/1(s)
- Snow 12 8 in denticles
- Snow 13 875 in denticles
- Snow 14 1875/1875 (s)
- Snow 15 Die lines below jaw and ear.

1876

No Varieties

1877

No Varieties

1878

- Snow 1 1/1(n) last 8/8(n)
- Snow 2 78 in denticles
- Snow 3 Doubled die reverse, 1-R-II

1879

- Snow 1 8/8, 9/9(e)
- Snow 2 1/1(s) 79/79(s)
- Snow 3 9/9(s)
- Snow 4 8/8(s)

1880

- Snow 1 Doubled die obverse, 1-O-III, Reverse off center clash marks.
- Snow 2 88/88(n) 88/88(s)
- Snow 3 Broken 2nd 8
- Snow 4 Broken 88

1881

- Snow 1 8/8(se)
- Snow 2 Last 1/1(n) Tilted
- Snow 3 Last 1/1(n)
- Snow 4 88/88(e)
- Snow 5 88/88(ne)
- Snow 6 88/88(n)
- Snow 7 8/8(n)

1882

- Snow 1 88/88(s)
- Snow 2 Broken top 2
- Snow 3 18/18(n)
- Snow 4 2/2, 2 in denticles
- Snow 5 82 in denticles

- Snow 6 Digits in neck
- Snow 7 88/88(s)
- Snow-8 8/8 (s), 2/2 (n)

1883

- Snow 1 1 in neck
- Snow 2 1883/1883(n) 83/83(s)
- Snow 3 3/3(s), defective digit punch
- Snow 4 Defective digit punch
- Snow 5 3/3(n)
- Snow 6 Double die reverse, 2-R-IV & VIII
- Snow 7 1 in pearls
- Snow 8 83 in denticles
- Snow 9 3 in ribbon end
- Snow 10 3/3(s), defective digit punch

1884

- Snow 1 84 in denticles
- Snow 2 8/8(?)
- Snow 3 8/8(n)
- Snow 4 Digits in curl
- Snow 5 8 in denticles

1885

- Snow 1 Digit at ribbon end
- Snow 2 85/85(n)

1886 Type 1

- Snow 1 6/6(s)
- Snow 2 6/6(w)
- Snow 3 1/1(n)
- Snow 4 86/86(s) 6/6(s), Small 6/Large 6
- Snow 5 6/6(s)
- Snow 6 6/6(s)
- Snow 7 86/86(s)
- Snow 8 Large 6/ Small 6

1886 Type 2

- Snow 1 Large 6 / Small 6
- Snow 2 8/8(w) 6/6(e)
- Snow 3 86/86(s)
- Snow 4 6/6(w)
- Snow 5 188/188(s)
- Snow 6 1/1(s) 86/86(sw)
- Snow 7 188/188(n)
- Snow 8 88 in denticles

1887

- Snow 1 Doubled die reverse 1-O-V
- Snow 2 8/8(s)
- Snow 3 1/1(s)
- Snow 4 88/88(w)
- Snow 5 188 in denticles
- Snow 6 7/7(s)
- Snow 7 1887 in denticles
- Snow 8 1/1(w), 2nd 8/8(s)
- Snow 9 18/18(s)
- Snow 10 7/7(s)

1888

- Snow 1 1888/7 overdate.
- Snow 2 1888/888
- Snow 3 No Variety
- Snow 4 1/1(s) 888/888(n)
- Snow 5 88/88(s)
- Snow 6 8/8(n)
- Snow 7 1/1(s) 8/8(s)
- Snow 8 Multiple 8's in denticles
- Snow 9 1 in denticles
- Snow 10 1/1(s), 1 in denticles
- Snow 11 Digit in neck
- Snow 12 Digits in denticles
- Snow 13 1/1(s)
- Snow 14 8/8(s)
- Snow 15 1,88 in denticles
- Snow 16 8/8(s)
- Snow 17 1/1(n)
- Snow 18 1/1(n) second 8/8(n)
- Snow 19 8/8(sw)
- Snow 20 Multiple digits in curl
- Snow 21 8/8(s)
- Snow 22 second 8/8(s)
- Snow 23 1/1(s), MPD's in hair
- Snow 24 MPD in hair curl
- Snow 25 MPD in hair curl

1889

- Snow 1 Doubled die reverse, 2-R-IV
- Snow 2 88/88(n), Doubled die obverse, 1-O-V
- Snow 3 1889/1889(sw)
- Snow 4 1889/89(n), MPD
- Snow 5 9/9(n)
- Snow 6 1889/1889(se)
- Snow 7 18/18(s)
- Snow 8 18/18(s) 89/89(n)
- Snow 9 18/18(s)
- Snow 10 1/1(n) 9/9(s)
- Snow 11 Doubled die reverse, 2-R-VI
- Snow 12 1889/1889(se)
- Snow 13 88/88(s)
- Snow 14 8/8(s)
- Snow 15 9/9(s)
- Snow 16 Second 8/8(se)
- Snow 17 1/1, 9/9(s) Second 8/8, 9/9(n)
- Snow 18 188/188(sw) 1/1, 9/9(ne)
- Snow 19 889/889(s)
- Snow 20 889/889(s)
- Snow 21 889/889(sw)
- Snow 22 889/889(n)
- Snow 23 First 8/8(n) 9/9(n) 889/889(s)
- Snow 24 8/8(se)
- Snow 25 9/9(n) 9/9(s)
- Snow 26 1/1 (s) 9/9(s) 9/9(n)
- Snow 27 889/889(s)
- Snow 28 1889/1889(s), Doubled die obverse, 2-O-II
- Snow 29 1/1(n)

- Snow 30 1889/1889(s)
- Snow 31 Multiple off-center clashes
- Snow 32 88/88(s)
- Snow 33 18/18(s) 9/9(s)

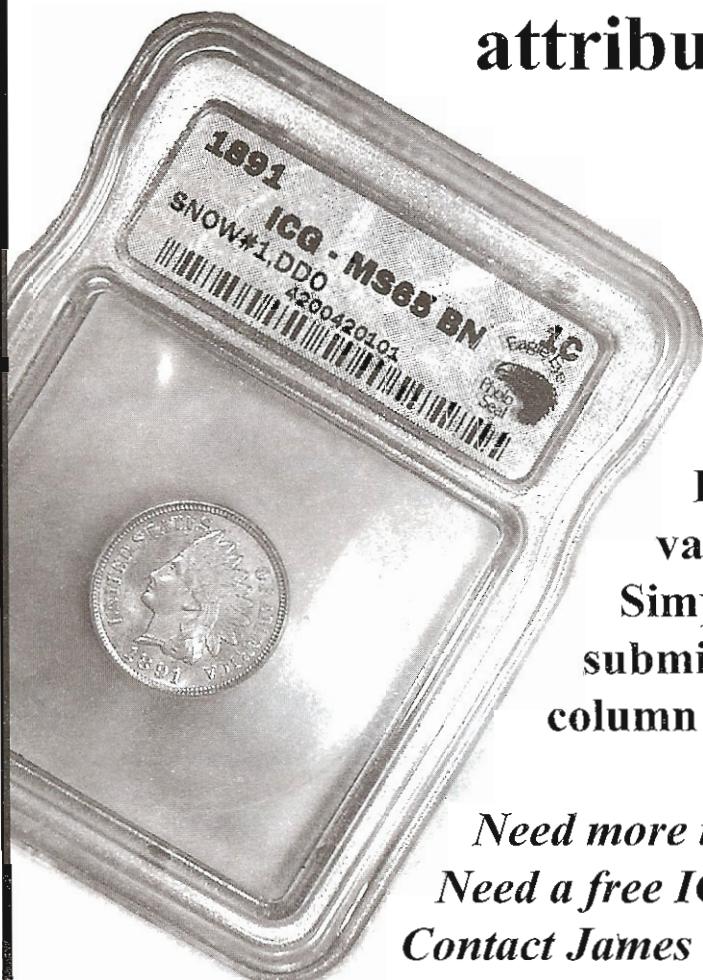
1890

- Snow 1 1890/1890(s), Multiple hubbed obverse, 1-O-II
- Snow 2 1890/1890(se)
- Snow 3 1 in neck
- Snow 4 0 in denticle
- Snow 5 189/189(s)
- Snow 6 9 in denticles
- Snow 7 90/90(n) 9/9(s)
- Snow 8 1/1(n)
- Snow 9 1/1(n)
- Snow 10 Doubled die obverse, 3-O-II
- Snow 11 0/0(ne)
- Snow 12 0/0(n)
- Snow 13 18/18(e) 0/0(e)
- Snow 14 90/90(s)
- Snow 15 1 and 0 in denticles
- Snow 16 Off-center reverse clash

1891

- Snow 1 18/18(s)
- Snow 2 Double die reverse, 1-R-IV
- Snow 3 1891/1891(n)
- Snow 4 91/91(n)
- Snow 5 First 1/1(s)
- Snow 6 First 1/1(s), 18 in denticles
- Snow 7 Multiple digits in denticles
- Snow 8 1/1(n), 9/9(s)
- Snow 9 First 1/1(s)
- Snow 10 No Variety
- Snow 11 Last 1/1(s)
- Snow 12 First 1/1(n)
- Snow 13 91/91(s)
- Snow 14 Last 1/1(s)
- Snow 15 Last 1/1(n)
- Snow 16 Last 1/1(n)
- Snow 17 No Variety
- Snow 18 89/89(s)
- Snow 19 8/8(n)
- Snow 20 18/18(s)
- Snow 21 Double hubbed obverse, 2-O-II
- Snow 22 1891/1891(n)
- Snow 23 Doubled die reverse

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1892

- Snow 1 189/189(n), doubled die reverse, 1-R-II
- Snow 2 92/92(n), Doubled die reverse, 1-R-II
- Snow 3 18/18(s)
- Snow 4 9/9(e), Doubled die reverse, 4-R-II
- Snow 5 1/1(s)
 - Snow 6 No variety
- Snow 7 18/18(n)
- Snow 8 892/892(e)
- Snow 9 8/8(n)
- Snow 10 2/2(n)
 - Snow 11 No variety
- Snow 12 Doubled die reverse, 2-R-II
- Snow 13 Doubled die reverse, 3-R-II
- Snow 14 "Scarface" Obverse die scratches

1893

- Snow 1 189/189(s)
- Snow 2 893/893(e)
- Snow 3 3/3(n)
- Snow 4 893/893(n)
- Snow 5 3/3(e)
- Snow 6 893/893(n)
- Snow 7 93/93(s)
- Snow 8 93/93(n)
- Snow 9 893/893(n)
- Snow 10 1893/1893(s)
- Snow 11 3/3(n)
- Snow 12 8/8(e)
- Snow 13 93/93(e)
- Snow 14 8/8(w)
- Snow 15 8/8(e) 3/3(e)
- Snow 16 8/8(sw)
- Snow 17 893/893(e)

1894

- Snow 1 1894/1894(ne)
- Snow 2 94 in denticles
- Snow 3 1/1(s)
- Snow 4 9/9(n)
- Snow 5 18/18(s) 4/4(n)

1895

- Snow 1 895/895(e)
- Snow 2 89/89(se) 5/5(n)
- Snow 3 95/95(s)
 - Snow 4 No variety
- Snow 5 189/189(e) 5/5(se)
- Snow 6 8/8(e) 5/5(e)
- Snow 7 1/1(n) 9/9(n,s)
- Snow 8 895/895(e)
- Snow 9 1/1(e) 1895/1895(e)
- Snow 10 18/18(n)
- Snow 11 895/895(se)
- Snow 12 5/5(s)
- Snow 13 8/8(n)
- Snow 14 89/89(ne), 5/5(se)
- Snow 15 1/1(s) 5/5(nw)
- Snow 16 89/89(n)

- Snow 17 189/189(ne)
- Snow 18 5/5(n)
- Snow 19 1/1(nw) 9/9(sw)
- Snow 20 189/189(e)
- Snow 21 189/189(n)
- Snow 22 No variety
- Snow 23 5/5(n)
- Snow 24 1/1(n)
- Snow 25 5/5(w)
- Snow 26 5/5(s)
- Snow 27 1/1(s) 895/895(n)
- Snow 28 8/8(n)
- Snow 29 5 in hair
- Snow 30 8/8 (se), 5/5 (se)

1896

- Snow 1 6/6(e)
- Snow 2 1896/1896(e)
- Snow 3 1/1(e) 6/6(e)
- Snow 4 6/6(w)
- Snow 5 6/6(s)
- Snow 6 6/6(e)
- Snow 7 1/1(n) 1896/1896(w)
- Snow 8 1896/1896(s)
- Snow 9 6/6(w)
- Snow 10 6 in denticles
- Snow 11 96/96(e)
- Snow 12 1/1(se) 6/6(ne)
- Snow 13 6/6(n), MPD
- Snow 14 6 in denticles
- Snow 15 1/1(s) 6/6(ne)
- Snow 16 18/18 (n)

1897

- Snow 1 1 in the neck
- Snow 2 897/897(e)
- Snow 3 18/18(s)
- Snow 4 9/9(e)
- Snow 5 97/97(e)
- Snow 6 1/1(s) 897/897(w)
- Snow 7 18/18(e)
- Snow 8 9/9(s)
- Snow 9 1/1(n)
- Snow 10 97/97(e)
- Snow 11 89/89(e)
- Snow 12 9/9(s)
- Snow 13 7/7(s)
- Snow 14 Small 1 in neck
- Snow 15 1 in denticles
- Snow 16 897/897(e)
- Snow 17 MPD in pearls
- Snow 18 9/9(e)

1898

- Snow 1 189/189(e)
- Snow 2 18/18(w)
- Snow 3 98/98(e)
- Snow 4 8/8(se)
- Snow 5 8 in denticles

- Snow 6 898/898(e)
- Snow 7 98/98(n)
- Snow 8 1898/1898(e)
- Snow 9 No Variety
- Snow 10 1/1(s)
- Snow 11 189/189(nw)
- Snow 12 98 in denticles
- Snow 13 8/8(sw), 9 in denticles
- Snow 14 898/898(e)
- Snow 15 98/98(e), 18 in denticles
- Snow 16 1/1(s)
- Snow 17 98/98(e)
- Snow 18 98/98(s), 98, 8 in denticles
- Snow 19 1/1(n), 8/8(s)
- Snow 20 1898/1898(s), 8/8(s)
- Snow 21 Multiple digits in denticles
- Snow 22 89/89(e)
- Snow 23 898/898(n)
- Snow 24 1/1(s), 8/8(n), 8/8(e), 9/9(e), 8/8(s),
Double hubbed reverse, 1-R-II
- Snow 25 8/8(s), 9 in denticles
- Snow 26 8/8(s)
- Snow 27 18/18(s)
- Snow 28 8 under hair curl
- Snow 29 89/89(e)
- Snow 30 1/1(s)
- Snow 31 98/98(w)
- Snow 32 18/18(s)
- Snow 33 1/1(ne), 98/98(ne)
- Snow 34 18/18(w)
- Snow 35 1/1(s)
- Snow 36 8/8(s)

1899

- Snow 1 1899/1899(e)
- Snow 2 8/8(w), 9/9(w)
- Snow 3 18/18(s)
- Snow 4 1/1(s), 9/9(n)
- Snow 5 18/18(s)
- Snow 6 899/899(e)
- Snow 7 1/1(s), 9/9(e)
- Snow 8 1/1(s), 9/9(s)
- Snow 9 1/1(s), 9/9(n)
- Snow 10 99/99(n)
- Snow 11 99/99(e)
- Snow 12 1/1(s), 9/9(e)
- Snow 13 9/9(e), So-called 9/7
- Snow 14 1/1(n),
- Snow 15 89/89(e)
- Snow 16 18/18(s)
- Snow 17 99/99(s)
- Snow 18 1/1(s)
- Snow 19 1/1(s), 9/9(n)
- Snow 20 899/899(e)
- Snow 21 9/9(n)
- Snow 22 9/9(s)

- 1900**
- Snow 1 Last 0/0(ne)
- Snow 2 1/1(s), Last 0/0(s)
- Snow 3 19/19(s), Last 0/0(n)
- Snow 4 90/90/0(w)
- Snow 5 0/0(e)
- Snow 6 190/190(e)
- Snow 7 190/190(e)
- Snow 8 19/19(s)
- Snow 9 19/19(w)
- Snow 10 1/1(s)
- Snow 11 0 in denticles
- Snow 12 0/0(s)
- Snow 13 Doubled die reverse, 1-R-II
- Snow 14 1/1(s), Spiked chin
- Snow 15 1/1(s)
- Snow 16 No variety
- Snow 17 0/0/0(s)
- Snow 18 1900/1900(e)
- Snow 19 90/90(w), 0/0(n)
- Snow 20 19/19(s), Die gouge on chin
- Snow 21 1/1(s)
- Snow 22 1/1(w)
- Snow 23 1/1(s)

1901

- Snow 1 1/1(s)
- Snow 2 9/9(e)
- Snow 3 1/1(s)
- Snow 4 First 1/1(s), 90/90(sw), Last 1/1(s)
- Snow 5 19/19(w)
- Snow 6 Last 1/1(nw), 9/9(s)
- Snow 7 19/19(s)
- Snow 8 01/01(s), 9/9(e)
- Snow 9 Last 1/1(s)
- Snow 10 First 1/1(s), Last 1/1(n)
- Snow 11 1901/1901(w)
- Snow 12 90/90(w)
- Snow 13 90/90(e)
- Snow 14 01/01(s)
- Snow 15 01/01(s), 90/90(e)
- Snow 16 19/19(s)
- Snow 17 190/1901(e)
- Snow 18 190/1901(s)
- Snow 19 First 1/1(s), Last 1/1(n)
- Snow 20 1/1(n)

1902

- Snow 1 Three digits in denticles
- Snow 2 19/19(s)
- Snow 3 2/2(s)
- Snow 4 Die gouge by eye
- Snow 5 19/19(e), 02/02(s)
- Snow 6 02/02(s)
- Snow 7 19/19(s)
- Snow 8 1/1(s), 0 in denticles
- Snow 9 90/90(s), 0 in denticles
- Snow 10 1/1(w)

- Snow 11 2/2(s)
- Snow 12 2/2(s)
- Snow 13 1/1(w)
- Snow 14 1/1 (s)

1903

- Snow 1 190/190(s)
- Snow 2 3/3(s)
- Snow 3 1903/1903(se), 03/03(w)
- Snow 4 3/3(s)
- Snow 5 1/1(s), 3/3(n)
- Snow 6 03 in denticles
- Snow 7 1/1(nw), 1/1(e)
- Snow 8 Doubled die reverse 1-R-II, 1/1(s)
- Snow 9 0 in denticles
- Snow 10 190 in denticles
 - Snow 11 No variety
- Snow 12 3/3(n), 03 in denticles
 - Snow 13 No variety
- Snow 14 3/3(n)
- Snow 15 Goatee variety
- Snow 16 03 in denticles
- Snow 17 903 in denticles
- Snow 18 1/1(s)
- Snow 19 1 under truncation
- Snow 20 19/19(n)
- Snow 21 19/19(s)
- Snow 22 19/19(s)
- Snow 23 3/3(s)
- Snow 24 1/1(s), 03/03(s)
- Snow 25 1/1(s)

1904

- Snow 1 904/904(e)
- Snow 2 4/4(s)
- Snow 3 19/19(s), 04/04(n)
- Snow 4 1/1(s)
- Snow 5 1/1(n)
- Snow 6 1/1n), 04/04(s)
- Snow 7 4/4(s)
- Snow 8 0/0(n), 4/4(s)
 - Snow 9 No variety
- Snow 10 1/1(s), 04/04(n)
- Snow 11 1/1(s)
 - Snow 12 No variety
 - Snow 13 No variety
 - Snow 14 No variety
- Snow 15 1/1(se), 0/0(e), 4/4(n)
- Snow 16 1/1(s)

1905

- Snow 1 5/5(s)
- Snow 2 5/5(n)
- Snow 3 Doubled die reverse, 1-R-II
- Snow 4 905 in denticles
- Snow 5 190/190(w)
- Snow 6 0/0(s)

- Snow 7 5/5(n)
- Snow 8 9/9(s)
- Snow 9 1/1(s)
- Snow 10 19/19(n), 05/05(s)
- Snow 11 190/190(e)
- Snow 12 1 in neck
- Snow 13 1/1905, 0/0(s, ne)
- Snow 14 Double die reverse, 2-R-II
- Snow 15 5/5(s)
- Snow 16 19/19(sw)
- Snow 17 05 in denticles
- Snow 18 190 in denticles
- Snow 19 05/05(nw)
- Snow 20 Doubled die reverse, 3-R-II
 - Snow 21 No variety
- Snow 22 5/5(s)
- Snow 23 1/1(s)
- Snow 24 1/1(s), MPD
- Snow 25 5/5(n)
- Snow 26 1/1(n)
- Snow 27 1/1(w)
- Snow 28 MPD's below 0 & 5.

1906

- Snow 1 190/190(s)
- Snow 2 6/6(s)
- Snow 3 19/19(s), 6/6(s)
- Snow 4 19/19/19(s)
- Snow 5 9/9(n)
- Snow 6 19/19(n), 0 in denticles
- Snow 7 906/906(s)
- Snow 8 1/1(s)
- Snow 9 1/1(n), 6/6(s)
- Snow 10 6/6(s)
- Snow 11 1/1(s), 6/6(n)
- Snow 12 9/9(s)
- Snow 13 6/6(s)
- Snow 14 0/0(s), 06 in denticles
- Snow 15 0 in denticles
- Snow 16 0 in denticles, Doubled die reverse, 1-R-II
- Snow 17 1/1(s)
- Snow 18 90 in denticles, Double die reverse, 2-R-II
- Snow 19 1/1(s), 6/6(n), 90 in denticles
- Snow 20 19/19(s), 6/6(e)
- Snow 21 19/19(n), 6/6(n)
 - Snow 22 No variety
- Snow 23 190 in denticles
- Snow 24 1/1(s), 0/0(s)
- Snow 25 1906/6/6(n,n)
- Snow 26 19/19(s)
- Snow 27 19/19(s), 0 in denticles
- Snow 28 1/1(s), 6/6(s)
- Snow 29 1/1(s), 6/6(s)
 - Snow 30 No variety
- Snow 31 06/06(s)
- Snow 32 1/1(s), 1/1(n), 6/6(s)
- Snow 33 19/19(n), 6/6(s)
- Snow 34 1/1(s), 6/6(s)

- Snow 35 9/9(s), 0 in denticles
- Snow 36 90/90(s)
- Snow 37 Doubled die reversed, 3-R-II
- Snow 38 1/1(s), 6/6(n)
- Snow 39 MPD below 0
- Snow 40 190/190(s)
- Snow 41 1/1 (s), 0/0 (s), 6/6 (n)
- Snow 42 190/190 (s), 6/6 (n)
- Snow 43 90/90 (n)

1907

- Snow 1 1907/1907(s), 90/90(n), 0 in denticles
- Snow 2 90/90/90(n)
- Snow 3 190/190(se)
- Snow 4 1907/1907(s), 1/1(n)
- Snow 5 1/1(s), 19/19(se)
- Snow 6 0/0/0(s), 7/7(s)
- Snow 7 7/7/7(n), 9/9(s)
 - Snow 8 No variety
- Snow 9 1907/07(s)
- Snow 10 19/19(s)
- Snow 11 7/7(s)
- Snow 12 1907/1907(s)
- Snow 13 90/90(s), Many digits in denticles
- Snow 14 9/9(n), 3 digits in denticles
- Snow 15 19/1907(s)
- Snow 16 1/1(w)
- Snow 17 1/1(w), 07/07(s)
- Snow 18 19/19(e)
 - Snow 19 No variety
- Snow 20 190/190(s)
- Snow 21 90/90(nw)
- Snow 22 9/9(s), Doubled die reverse, 2-R-II
- Snow 23 907/907(s), 0 in denticles
 - Snow 24 No variety
- Snow 25 7/7(n)
- Snow 26 90/90(e)
- Snow 27 90/90(s), 90/90(s)
- Snow 28 907/907(s)
 - Snow 29 No variety
- Snow 30 07 in denticles
- Snow 31 90/90(s), 7/7(n)
- Snow 32 9/9(s)
- Snow 33 9/9(s)
- Snow 34 9/9(s), 7/7(s)
- Snow 35 1/1(s), Doubled die reverse, 1-R-II
- Snow 36 07/07(s)
 - Snow 37 No variety
- Snow 38 19/19(w), 7/7(s)
- Snow 39 07/07(e), 7/7(s)
- Snow 40 1 in denticles
- Snow 41 7/7(sw), 9/9/9(s)
- Snow 42 19/19(s)
- Snow 43 7/7(sw)
- Snow 44 19/19(s)
- Snow 45 7 in denticles
- Snow 46 0/0(e)
- Snow 47 1/1(s)
- Snow 48 9/9(s)

1908

- Snow 1 9/9(n), 9/9(s)
- Snow 2 8/8(se)
- Snow 3 19/19(s), 1 in denticles
- Snow 4 4 digits in denticles
- Snow 5 1/1(s), 0/0(s)
- Snow 6 1/1(s), 8/8(s)
- Snow 7 19/19(s)
- Snow 8 8/8(s)
- Snow 9 08 in denticles
- Snow 10 9/9(s), 8 in denticles
- Snow 11 08 in denticles
- Snow 12 19/19(s), MPD
- Snow 13 8/8(s)
- Snow 14 1908 in denticles
- Snow 15 0 in denticles
- Snow 16 9/9(s), 3 digits in denticles
- Snow 17 8/8(s)
- Snow 18 1/1(s), 8/8(s)
- Snow 19 908 in denticles
- Snow 20 1908 in denticles
- Snow 21 1/1(s)
- Snow 22 1908/1908(w)
- Snow 23 908 in denticles, 8/8(n)
- Snow 24 1/1 (s)
- Snow 25 1/1 (s), 8/8 (s)
- Snow 26 8/8 (n)

1908-S

- Snow 1 S/S(s)
- Snow 2 8/8(e)

1909

- Snow 1 Master die doubling, 1-O-III
- Snow 2 Doubled die, 2-O-II

1909-S

No Varieties

Typical Mint State: MS-60 to MS-61

No trace of wear. Obvious blemishes, such as contact marks, small spots or unnatural color are present.



MS60

No trace of wear. Significant contact marks or spotting. Color may not be original.



MS61

An otherwise MS60 coin with a positive attribute. Color may not be original.

Of the Mint State grades, MS60 is at the lowest end of the grading spectrum. It is uncirculated, but is not deserving of any greater quality qualifier. MS60 is possibly the most misunderstood grade. Most pricing guides list coins in this grade, but in that context, MS60 can be thought of as a generic label, similar to "Unc" or "BU". In practice, the grade is not particularly desirable, as no seller wants their coin to be the lowest graded MS example.

The reason coins will be downgraded to MS60 may be significant contact marks from other coins prior to being placed in circulation. However, there should be no evidence of wear. This definition makes slightly worn coins without marks (AU58) more desirable in many collectors eye's than MS60.

Is it better to have a low end MS coin or a high end AU coin?

Any physical movement of the surface metal will cancel any chance of a MS grade. These coins include wizzed coins which have the surfaces wire brushed to simulate Mint luster.

Coins that at one time were a higher grade but have acquired unattractive carbon spotting or staining may fall down to the MS60 grade. The problem should be obvious without the aid of a magnifying glass.

The color of MS60 can be original, but it is possible the coin was chemically cleaned or retoned to an unnatural color and still qualify for MS60. If Mint luster still shows, even though the color is wrong, it is still considered Mint State. If the luster is diminished by the cleaning then no wear should be detectable.

The MS61 grade may be assigned to coins that may be defined as MS60 but have better than average eye appeal. It could also be a coin which would grade higher were it not for a problem (cleaning, spots, hits) which lowers its eye appeal considerably. This grade is highly subjective, and is rarely used.

Typical Mint State: MS-62 to MS-63

Minor blemishes such as contact marks, small spots or unnatural color are present. Acceptable eye appeal.



MS62

Small contact marks, spots. Color may not be original.

MS62 is assigned to coins which just miss qualifying for MS63 by some obvious problem. These may have good eye appeal except for the grade limiting problem.

Coins that are otherwise higher grades may be down graded to MS62 due to unnatural color if the surfaces are still acceptable for a MS coin. For example a chemically cleaned coin may still have its original luster, but not original color.

The MS63 grade is one of the most popular grades for collectors of uncertified Indian Cents. It is generally accepted that otherwise attractive coins of a higher grade which do not have original color can receive this grade. With rare exceptions, this is the highest grade a cleaned coin can grade. Mostly coins which has been once cleaned and subsequently expertly retoned may qualify as acceptable in this grade. Any cleaned coins should be mentioned as such.

For original coins, this grade is defined as "Typical:" or "Average". Coins should have marks or spots which are not overtly offensive to the eye appeal of the coin. There should be no marks which one would consider being "heavy". Neither should there be any spots considered "large".

A coin which is otherwise a higher grade, but exhibits a substantially weak strike or a large debris strike-through may be given the MS63 grade. A debris strike-through is caused when a substance, such as machine oil drips onto the planchets and is impressed into the coin when the coin is struck.



MS63

A few light marks or small spots. Unnatural color, if present, should not be offensive.

Color designations

Bronze Mint State Indian Cents usually are designated with a color designation BN for Brown, RB for Red-Brown and RD for Red. The color qualifier follows the grade number, for example: MS63RB.

Most coins in MS63 or lower are found with RB or BN designations. MS63RD coins do exist, but beware of cleaned examples sold as red without mention of the cleaning.

Red-Brown coins can vary from nearly brown to nearly full red. The percentage of red can be listed if it effects the value of the coin. RB coins very close to BN or RD colors may get those designations depending on the overall look of the coin. For example, a very attractive coin with RD color and a slight toning around the edge from being held in a cardboard album for many years may still be properly graded with the RD designation.

It is implied by higher prices that a RD coin is worth more than a RB and both are worth more than a BN coin. It is up to the individual collector to determine, using their own tastes, what should be included in a collection. Certainly a well matched BN collection is as impressive as one with varying shades of RB and RD coins.

Aside from color and technical grade, consider other aspects of a coin such as strike and die state. These are currently not quantified, but well struck early die state pieces add significantly to the aesthetic appeal of a coin. These issues will be discussed under the higher grades.

Pricing MS-60 to MS63 Indian Cents

Grading goes hand in hand with pricing. A proper understanding of each is necessary to better judge the value of coins presented for purchase. The prices presented here are for coins graded by the standards set in this article. Certification by any grading service does not automatically qualify a coin for the pricing presented here.

Grading for Mint State coins in MS60 to MS63 is highly subjective to the quality of the coin being graded. For the most part, the lower grades are reserved for coins with problems. Contact marks, spots, scratches, cleaning and retoning are all problems to deal with in these grades.

Most collectors who resolve to complete a collection in these grades is usually concerned with getting the most coin for the least amount of money. The main problem is avoiding problem coins.

It is common for collectors to buy uncertified coins in these grades. The cost of certification may make the submission of the lower value coins unattractive. Certification of higher value coins may be wise to eliminate counterfeits and chemically altered coins. Many collectors, once satisfied with a coins true grade may decide to remove certified coins from their holders in order to insert them into bookshelf albums. In these grades there may be little resale value lost by doing this.

Prices for MS60 to MS63 are typically for brown coins, or red-brown with a majority of brown. There is not a great price differential for coins with a high percentage of red. Full red coins are very rarely encountered in these grades. If uncertified, such coins are usually considered to have had their color lightened artificially. Certified coins graded full red in MS63 or lower usually have large hits or spots.

	MS-60 (BN for 1864-1909)	MS-63	MS-63RB
1859	\$225	\$450	
1859/1859 (S-1)	\$2,500	\$4,000	
1860 Type 1	\$225	\$650	
1860 Type 2	\$150	\$175	
1861	\$190	\$225	
1862	\$95	\$160	
1863	\$95	\$160	
1864 CN	\$130	\$180	
1864 No L	\$100	\$115	\$125
1864 With L	\$290	\$375	\$425
1865 Fancy 5	\$95	\$110	\$120
1865 Plain 5	\$100	\$135	\$150
1866	\$320	\$340	\$375
1867	\$320	\$340	\$375
1867/67 (S-1)	\$725	\$800	\$850
1868	\$320	\$360	\$375
1869	\$500	\$550	\$575
1869/69 (S-3)	\$600	\$675	\$725
1870 All Rev. types	\$450	\$475	\$500
1871 Shallow N	\$625	\$825	\$850
1871 Bold N	\$525	\$625	\$700
1872 Shallow N	\$800	\$1,100	\$1,250
1872 Bold N	\$650	\$775	\$850
1873 Closed 3	\$400	\$525	\$600
1873 Dbl LIB (S-1)	\$8,500	\$11,000	\$12,500
1873 Open 3	\$250	\$275	\$285
1874	\$175	\$210	\$225
1875	\$175	\$210	\$225
1876	\$275	\$300	\$350
1877 Shallow N	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$3,750
1878	\$300	\$330	\$350
1879	\$120	\$135	\$150
1880	\$85	\$100	\$110
1881	\$50	\$75	\$85
1882	\$50	\$75	\$85
1883	\$50	\$75	\$85
1884	\$60	\$80	\$90
1885	\$120	\$160	\$175
1886 Type 1	\$170	\$200	\$225
1886 Type 2	\$225	\$400	\$450
1887	\$50	\$65	\$75
1888	\$70	\$100	\$125
1888/7 (S-1)	\$20,000	\$22,500	\$25,000
1889	\$50	\$65	\$75
1890	\$45	\$65	\$75
1891	\$45	\$65	\$75
1891 DDO (S-1)	\$550	\$1,100	\$1,500
1891/1891 (S-3)	\$550	\$700	\$850
1892	\$45	\$65	\$75
1893	\$45	\$65	\$75
1894	\$75	\$65	\$75
1894/94 (S-1)	\$450	\$700	\$850
1895	\$35	\$50	\$60
1896	\$35	\$50	\$60
1897	\$35	\$50	\$60
1897 1 in Neck (S-1)	\$925	\$1,300	\$1,500
1898	\$35	\$45	\$50
1899	\$35	\$45	\$50
1900	\$30	\$40	\$45
1901	\$30	\$40	\$45
1902	\$30	\$40	\$45
1903	\$30	\$40	\$45
1904	\$30	\$40	\$45
1905	\$30	\$40	\$45
1906	\$30	\$40	\$45
1907	\$30	\$40	\$45
1908	\$30	\$40	\$45
1908 S	\$200	\$275	\$300
1908 S/S (S-1)	\$500	\$650	\$700
1909	\$30	\$40	\$45
1909 S	\$600	\$725	\$750

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The “Penny” Lady
By Charmy Harker

When I was in my late 30's I had no clue what a numismatist was. I am a litigation paralegal in a large law firm in Southern California and always thought of myself as a typical working mom living on a quiet cul-de-sac with my husband, two teenage boys, and our dog Mc. I usually spent my evenings making dinner, helping with homework, doing laundry, attending school functions – you know, the usual mom stuff. Also, since the boys were in the first grade I have been very active in the scouting program as a parent volunteer. So my “plate” was pretty full and I never dreamed of becoming not just a coin collector but also a coin dealer!

Ever since I was a young girl, I have enjoyed collecting all kinds of things, including souvenir spoons, stamps, old tins, troll dolls, and numerous other trinkets. My family was often on the verge of doing an “intervention” and sending me to “Collectors Anonymous” meetings when, about eight years ago, I inherited several boxes of coins from my aunt. My kids just rolled their eyes and said, “Here we go again, more dust-gathering junk for Mom to hoard.” I scoffed at their cynicism and was very anxious to see what might be in these ancient-looking metal containers. So I dusted off the lids and began sorting through each box. There were all denominations of U.S. coins spanning from the early 1800's to 1970's, and included everything from brand new shiny silver dollars to dark old tarnished half-dimes. Then I noticed there was a whole box of what looked like pennies with a portrait of an Indian on the front. I had seen a Buffalo nickel before but never had I seen or even known about an Indian *penny* – I just assumed Lincoln was always on the U.S. cent. Wow, I thought these old pennies must be rare and valuable!

As I flipped through the coins, I noticed a price penciled on the back of some of the 2 x 2 holders which I assumed was what my aunt originally paid for each coin. Even though many of the pennies contained low-end price figures, I was amazed that she had paid up to \$100 for some of them. I even came across a 1914-D Lincoln cent that had \$250 written on the back. I thought, “Imagine that – one little old penny being worth that much money!”

I reasoned, if one penny was worth \$250, the dollars, quarters, dimes and nickels must be worth even more since they were a higher denomination. So I showed the boxes to a local coin dealer to see what the whole collection might be worth. After quickly thumbing through the coins and making some notations on a piece of paper, the dealer gave me the figure he would be willing to pay, and immediately my heart sank. I thought, “How do I know these coins aren't worth more than what this dealer is telling me? But what do I know about coins?”

What I didn't know I could learn. So I told the dealer “no thanks” and right there on the spot decided I would study and learn all I could about these potential little gems. However, having a family and a full-time job, I knew I wouldn't have much spare time to learn about all the various U.S. coinage and figured it would be best to focus on one series. I have always had a keen interest in Native American history and was quite enamored by the detail of the Indian pennies in my aunt's collection, so I chose to study Longacre's beautifully crafted Indian cent.

Next, I devoured every book and article I could find about Indian cents, copper coins, grading, detecting counterfeit coins, pricing coins, collecting in general, etc., and quickly became an avid customer of the ANA's website bookstore. I also joined the ANA, subscribed to several coin publications, and began attending local coin shows and pestering as many dealers who would give me the time of day.

I spoke with many kind and friendly dealers, but out of all the ones I met, I have to give credit where credit is definitely due and that is to my Indian cent mentor and friend, Alan Kreuzer of Castro Valley, California. I first approached Alan at a Long Beach coin show shortly after deciding to learn more about my “great inheritance” and began asking him everything I could think of about coins and, in particular, the Indian cent. He had the patience of Jobe and spent a great deal of time that day (and many others since) teaching me the basics

of grading and how to look for good quality Indian cents. I also bought various grades of mint state common date Indian cents from him so I could learn to differentiate the grade levels for myself. In the coming months, Alan continued to teach me about detecting hairlines, submitting coins to a grading service, particular supplies I needed, key dates, and what I feel was the hardest thing to learn – differentiating between artificially and originally toned coins.

Eventually, Alan began letting me work with him at the Long Beach show. There, I could observe first-hand how the coin business was conducted. I especially enjoyed watching all the “wheeling and dealing” that occurs, and I believe Alan is one of the kings – if not The King – of the coin wheeler dealers! The time spent with Alan was truly priceless and indeed the best education I could ever have hoped for in my quest to learn about Indian cents and the coin business in general.

After attending several shows, I began to trust and feel more comfortable with many of the local coin dealers I had met. In addition to Alan, these dealers also helped me in buying mint state Indian cents. I would find one I thought was pretty nice and show it to them and they would advise me as to whether they thought it was a “good deal” or not and why. Pretty soon, I felt comfortable with my own grading skills and became fairly adept at tracking down nice mint state Indian cents at a decent price. I eventually decided to put together a high-end Indian set of my own. And, as many collectors will tell you, in order to support my newest collecting addiction, it soon became necessary to buy coins just for resale.

First, however, I thought I should make my little expanding coin enterprise “official” in addition to taking advantage of the tax benefits available to small business owners. So I decided to start my own business and began pondering catchy names. I finally came up with “CoinCents” since I had decided to specialize in only cents. I opened a post office box, discovered how to get a business license as well as a retail sales license, filed a fictitious business name statement with the county recorder, and even purchased the domain name

“coincents.com” so I could create my own website. My sister, Corrine Bachman, who is a graphic artist in New Mexico, created a beautiful logo for my new company and designed my business cards and stationery. Now, I felt like a real coin dealer!

I decided to try selling some of my aunt’s Indian cents on Ebay. I learned by trial and error the best way to scan and create quality pictures of coins and how to write creative detailed descriptions. Even though I could only work on my Ebay auctions during the evenings and weekends, I was auctioning off many coins each week and building up a nice little reputation. One of the most important things I learned was that following up and keeping in communication with my new-found customers was critical to maintaining long-term customers. It always gave me a great thrill when a customer would write to say how much he liked the coin he had purchased from me and that he thought my grading was accurate. To this day, some of my current customers are ones I originally acquired while selling on Ebay.

Even though you have to be very careful when buying coins sight unseen though online auctions, it can also be very rewarding, as I discovered a few years ago. I was scrolling through uncirculated Indian cents on Ebay one day, and came across a coin that was advertised as a “BU” 1873 Indian cent. I clicked on the auction listing for more details and could see from the photo that the coin was indeed uncirculated and looked to have original toning, but there was no designation as to the exact grade and whether it was an open or closed 3. I decided to keep my bid closer to the MS60 open 3 price range. I ended up winning the coin for a mere \$110 which is less than AU money for an 1873 open 3, so I thought I got a pretty good deal. However, within minutes of the auction closing I received an e-mail from a gentleman offering me \$100 more than the closing price, saying he especially liked the woodgrain toning of this particular 1873 Indian cent. I advised him I would have to evaluate the coin when I received it and get back to him. Now, this peaked my curiosity as to why he would offer double for this particular coin. I thought, “Maybe he knows something I don’t?”

When the coin arrived, I was quite pleased with its appearance and quickly determined it was the closed 3 variety and graded it as MS63RB with a good shot at MS64RB. But, as a result of that gentleman's curious e-mail, I made sure to examine the coin very carefully. To my surprise, I noticed there was doubling in Liberty. Not knowing much yet about Indian varieties, I decided to peruse my variety books to see if the doubling on this particular coin was mentioned for this year. When I compared it to the pictures of 1873 cents in Flynn's Indian cent die variety book, I determined that, although it was not the Snow 1 variety which exhibits strong doubling in all of the letters of Liberty, it was definitely the Snow 2 variety which has weaker but clear doubling in Liberty. When I discovered the value of this variety was about \$2,500 in MS63 and \$3,500 in MS64, I couldn't contain myself! I was so excited to share this great find with someone that I showed the coin to my usually skeptical husband and kids and told them what it was worth. They stared at me like I had just landed from another planet. They couldn't believe anyone would pay that kind of money for a penny! I showed them the article and photo of the 1873 in the book and had each of them look at the coin through a loupe so they could see the doubling for themselves. I think that was the first time my family showed true respect for me as a coin entrepreneur and not as just a collector of more "junk."

I took the coin to the next Long Beach show and showed it to Alan, as well as the ANACS grader, and several other dealers. They all agreed that it was indeed the Snow 2 variety and said it would grade at least MS63RB. I decided to shop it around the show to see what someone would actually pay for it and received offers from \$1,000 to \$2,000. I ended up selling it for \$2,000 to a variety dealer who was very pleased with it. From a \$110 investment, this was quite a nice little profit for me, and the experience also made me a believer in the value of varieties. As a matter of fact, I recently received another 1873 from an Ebay auction that also turned out to be Snow 2 variety. Even though it was only AU, I paid less than \$100 for it while its value is close to \$900.

So there are definitely some good finds on online auctions. I now buy quite a few coins through various internet auctions and there are many sellers I have come to trust and continue to do business with. But there are always sellers who either misrepresent their coins or fail to mention specific problems such as scratches or artificial toning that are hard to see in the photograph. Through my experiences with online auctions, particularly Ebay, I have learned several costly yet important lessons. I now make it a habit of doing a brief evaluation of a seller *before* I bid on his auction. If a seller has only a small number of feedback comments from prior transactions or too many negative feedback, I won't bid on his auctions. I also don't bid on any auctions that do not provide a return policy. When I failed to take the time to review this information, I sometimes later found out that I was dealing with an unscrupulous seller who either misrepresented the coin, collected my money and never sent the item, or even had a "shill" bidder who placed bids only to drive up the price. In all cases, the seller had a small number of feedback and/or several negative comments from prior buyers, which I had failed to check. Ebay does have a limited protection policy, but it is much better to perform your "due diligence" on a seller and to remember that, with few exceptions, you really do get what you pay for.

Looking back on starting out as a brand new coin enthusiast just a few years ago to having amassed quite an empire of nice small cents, I see how that little inheritance was the beginning of something very special and rewarding for me. And because I am a woman who specializes in only cents, I have even earned the dubious title of "The Penny Lady." While I find being female is somewhat of an oddity among coin dealers, I have never been made to feel like an outcast or that I didn't belong in this business. On the contrary, every coin dealer with whom I have come into contact has been more than kind and helpful to me and many now even refer their Indian cent customers to me, which I feel is the highest compliment as I have gained the trust of my fellow coin dealers.

I no longer sell on Ebay because I find dealing one on one with customers at coin shows is so much more rewarding. Also, it's like buying a new outfit at a department store rather than ordering it through a catalog – you get instant gratification! I now participate in as many Southern California coin shows as possible, even expanding into the Northern California circuit as time permits. My goal is to begin participating in national shows, especially the ANA and FUN shows that I have heard so much about but haven't been able to attend due to constraints of my bill-paying job. One of the side benefits that I feel is important in participating in coin shows is the comradery and "networking" that frequently occurs between the dealers. Even if a coin show doesn't turn out to be as profitable as I would have

liked, I have truly enjoyed every one I have attended. There always seems to be something new to learn, some new variety to discuss, some rare coin newly discovered, or even just listening to the never-ending complaints about the inconsistencies of the coin grading companies. And for me, the best part of attending these shows is after you wind down the last deal, put away your coins, lock up your cases, cover up your table, put the chairs up, and you're wearily walking down the now-deserted aisles of the auditorium knowing that soon you'll be seated at one of the town's exceptional restaurants sharing a bottle of fine wine, delicious food, and more entertaining stories with your fellow coin dealer buddies!

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